

THE LATE PROFESSOR JOHN ANDERSON

We have received the following appreciation from Mr. G. GORDON-TAYLOR:

The death of Professor John Anderson of St. Andrews University and Dundee has robbed British surgery of an able surgeon and a charming personality. I first knew Jack Anderson as one of a band of young surgeons, many of them from across the Tweed, whom Sir Henry Gray had collected round him in the Third Army during the war; but while all were superlatively efficient, while all were devotedly enthusiastic on behalf of those entrusted to their care, Jack Anderson was perhaps the outstanding figure, the magnetic personality of the group. In those days he was "Jack," perhaps even "Jock," Anderson, long before the dignity of a professorship of surgery in a Scottish university had fallen on his shoulders; but that same consideration, that same unwearying patience, that tireless toil, that self-sacrifice which twenty years ago he displayed on behalf of the wounded in the "casualty clearing zone" ever characterized his work throughout his subsequent career. Among the operators at the "back of the front" I should have unhesitatingly ranked him in the foremost trio.

Till the time of his death he retained a peculiar interest in all who had served abroad, and especially in such as had suffered in the war. It may be well that death cut short his illness, for Jack Anderson was not one who could have endured that considerations of health should ever impose their decree upon his surgical thrust. While his professional career was spent in the eastern counties of Scotland, his appearance, his manner of speech, his charm, his Highland courtesy, his genial hospitality, bewrayed an origin from beyond the Grampians. He leaves behind him the memory of a great surgeon who loved his profession, who loved life, who loved his land, and who lived every minute of the day; he compelled respect, admiration, and affection. Such were the thoughts of the many hundreds who came, unbidden, some from long distances, to stand round his grave on the hillside looking southward towards the sun across the Firth of Tay.

Dr. E. P. CUMBERBATCH writes:

In the obituary notice of Professor John Anderson, published in your issue of August 24th, there is merely a passing reference to his electro-surgical work.

It should be realized that he was much more than the protagonist in this country of the use of the cutting current in surgery. He developed a method much in advance of the crude procedure practised on the Continent. It is not too much to say that he was an independent founder of a new surgical method. It is true that George Austin Wyeth elaborated a similar method and published an account of it in 1924. But John Anderson's work was contemporaneous with that of the distinguished New York surgeon and quite independent of it.

John Anderson's personal charm, his ability, and his zealous devotion to surgery were known to his friends and admirers at home and abroad, but his pioneer work in the "new surgery" should ensure the inscription of his name on the annals of surgical history.

Dr. BASIL TEMPLE UTLEY, a member of the Fiji Branch of the British Medical Association, died of septicaemia on April 2nd, after a gallant fight of over a week's duration following a pricked finger wound received in the course of his professional duties. Dr. Utley was born in London, in King's Bench Walk, Temple, on June 10th, 1895, and was the son of the late William Herbert Utley.

After attending a preparatory school in London, his education was continued in Switzerland. He took much interest in Swiss sports and was a proficient fencer. In 1913 he entered Trinity Hall, Cambridge, expecting to read for History Honours. On the outbreak of war he enlisted in the London Fusiliers, and afterwards received a commission in the 4th Connaught Rangers. He saw service in France and was wounded, convalesced in England, and was then drafted to Mesopotamia. He was later transferred to France, and was gassed at Le Cateau in 1918. After the war he studied journalism at London University, and later attended St. George's Hospital Medical School, qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. in 1928. He held house appointments at the Metropolitan Hospital, and later was on the staff at Colney Hatch. His service during the war had affected his health, and in 1930 he left England in an 18-ton yawl, the *Inyala*, for the South Seas. He had for years been an ardent lover of sailing and had sailed to Norway, but a transatlantic crossing was a new experience. He sailed the *Inyala* to Spain, the Canaries, the West Indies, and eventually reached the Pacific via Panama. The Galapagos, the Marquesas, and Tahiti were well known to him before he finally reached Fiji. In Fiji he worked in partnership with another St. George's man, Dr. I. Hamilton, and he gained a reputation as a conscientious and hard-working physician.

Dr. T. Clunie, honorary secretary of the Fiji Branch, writes: Wherever he went this man was liked. He had the faculty of adapting himself to his surroundings. Utley married while in Tahiti, Emily Lovell Caulfield Phillips. Our sympathy goes out to his widow and to his aged mother in England. I heard words read over his grave, and they seemed to me to aptly apply to this child of nature. They were taken from Dostoyevsky. —*The Brothers Karamazov*. "Here is perhaps the one man in the world whom you might leave alone without a penny, in the centre of an unknown town of a million inhabitants, and he would not come to harm, he would not die of cold or hunger, for he would be fed and sheltered at once; and if he were not, he would find a shelter for himself, and it would cost him no effort or humiliation. And to shelter him would be no burden, but, on the contrary, would probably be looked on as a pleasure."

We regret to announce the sudden death on August 15th, in his seventy-third year, of Dr. JOSEPH ROBINSON, who for close on thirty years was a well-known practitioner in Chelsea. He took the diploma of L.R.C.P.I. in 1885, following this with the L.R.F.P.S.Glas. In 1912 he obtained the D.P.H. of the Irish Colleges, having graduated M.D.Durham in the previous year. He had held a commission in the R.A.M.C.(T.) for over forty years, retiring with the rank of major. In his early life he was a prominent Freemason. A man of outstanding personality and ability, Dr. Robinson had a profound knowledge of his fellow men, and this characteristic carried him forward in a successful career. His whole life was devoted to medicine, and up to the time of his retirement two years ago his work made very strenuous demands on him. A memorial service was held at St. John's Church, Chelsea, followed by a cremation at Golders Green on August 17th. He leaves a widow.

We regret to announce the recent death, at Zurich, of Dr. OTTO AMREIN, who had long practised in Arosa, and who for many years had taken a prominent part in its social, medical, and municipal life. He was in his sixty-first year and had been in his usual good health, when, on August 2nd, he was suddenly seized with a heart attack, associated with coronary anorexia, which rapidly proved fatal. Dr. Amrein, while born in Switzerland, was not a native of Arosa, although he was later made a "burgher" of that town in recognition of his work on its behalf. As a lad, however, he had spent his holidays in the district, and had learnt to love the beauties of the "jewel of the Alps." In 1900, shortly after qualification, he settled down in practice in Arosa,